

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GLOUCESTER

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year

1968

STEPHEN KNIGHT

M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

29 BRUNSWICK SQUARE
GLOUCESTER



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29259575>

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF GLOUCESTER

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Gloucester.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report for 1968 on the health, environmental hygiene and sanitary circumstances of the Rural District. The report is prepared as required by the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959, and Circular 1/1969 of the Department of Health and Social Security.

I am indebted to other officers of the Council for much of the material from which this Report is compiled, especially to Mr. J. S. Hopkins, Engineer and Surveyor to the Council and to Mr. S. W. D. Harris, Chief Public Health Inspector, for the sections contributed by them.

In general the health statistics for the Rural District are favourable and reflect the well-being of the community.

The Birth Rate, 17.6 per 1,000 population, although comparable with that for the County and higher than the national average, again shows a slight decline as it did the previous year.

The incidence of infectious disease was extremely low and is due in large measure to the success of schemes for immunisation and vaccination. Parents readily take advantage of the facilities available and nearly every child is immunised against the common infectious diseases.

In spite of the national economic situation, progress was made with the provision of main sewerage schemes for Tirley; Hardwicke and Quedgeley; and extensions to the works at Frampton-on-Severn; because of the serious hazards to public health, consent of the Ministry was given for the work to go forward.

The number of intensive farming units continues to increase. This type of farm may be in close proximity to a centre of population where housing development has taken place near to the farm. In these circumstances complaints are likely to be made particularly of the methods of manure disposal which are regarded as standard agricultural practice.

I am glad to be able to take this opportunity of thanking members of the Council for their support and my colleagues for their help throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE (31.12.68)

Chairman: F. J. CHAMBERLAYNE

Vice-Chairman: E. J. PENNELS

S. G. BRIDGES	C. G. MAYO
J. C. CAIRNS TERRY	R. T. MERRETT
C. J. DE LISLE WELLS	T. MORGAN
F. J. EDWARDS	MRS. J. O. PIERCY
T. ERRINGTON	K. H. PLESTED
R. L. EVANS	E. ROGERS
W. EVANS	MRS. K. M. TERRY
W. G. FEAR	N. E. I. THOMAS
A. J. GIBSON	G. K. WARREN
	MAJ. P. W. WELLER

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

STEPHEN KNIGHT, M.B., B.S.(LOND.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health to the Tewkesbury Borough, Charlton Kings
Urban District, Gloucester and Cheltenham Rural Districts and County
Divisional Medical Officer of Health for the North Gloucestershire
Divisional Area.

S. W. D. HARRIS, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Chief Public Health
Inspector and Petroleum Officer.

G. G. VIGGERS, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.H.E., Deputy Chief Public Health
Inspector.

P. M. JONES, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., A.I.H.E., District Public
Health Inspector.

L. S. SCOURFIELD, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., District Public Health
Inspector.

N. J. DAVIS, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Additional Public Health
Inspector.

N. J. BILLINGTON, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Additional Public
Health Inspector.

D. J. ROGERS, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Additional Public Health
Inspector.

P. J. C. WALKER, Student Public Health Inspector.

MISS J. E. C. MORGAN, Administrative Assistant.

MISS B. COX, Shorthand Typist/General Assistant.

F. GREENWOOD, Senior General Assistant.

W. B. NEWMAN, Rodent Operator.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Area (in acres): 67,830

Population (Registrar General's Estimated Home Population mid 1968): 37,600
(This figure includes members of the Armed Forces stationed in the District).

Number of Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1968) according to rate books:
12,033

Rateable Value (December 31st, 1968): £1,414,390 Os. Od.

Estimated produce of a penny rate (1968/69): £5,553

General Rate 1968 -- 69: 11/8d. (County Precept 9/10d.)

Less	(a)	for Domestic Hereditaments	10d.
	(b)	for Mixed	" 5d.
	(c)	for Commercial	" -

ADOPTIVE PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT

1. New Streets (adopted 1st April, 1937).
2. Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures (adopted 1st September, 1938).
3. Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in Open Air (adopted 28th August, 1950).
4. Gloucestershire County Council Act, 1956, Section 141, Water Supplies to occupied houses (adopted 1st January, 1957).
5. Gloucestershire County Council Act, 1956, Section 166, Registration of Hairdressers and Barbers (adopted 1st October, 1965).
6. The Building Regulations 1965, (adopted 1st February, 1966).
7. Gloucestershire County Council Act, 1956, Section 154, Registration of Hawkers of Food and their premises (adopted 1st July, 1967).

VITAL STATISTICS

These statistics give particulars as to the births and deaths in the District, together with certain rates which are compared, where possible, with those for England and Wales, and the County of Gloucester.

A detailed list of the causes of death will be found in Table 4 (p.8).

TABLE 1

							Male	Female	Totals
Live Births:									
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	318	298	616
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	28	46
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	336	326	662
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population									
Area Comparability factor (births)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.6
Rates of local adjusted Birth Rate to National Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.03
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.07
							Male	Female	Totals
Still Births:									
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	3	8
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	4	10
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births							..	..	15.0
Total live and still births							..	..	672
							Male	Female	Totals
Infant Deaths:									
(Deaths of infants under 1 year of age)									
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	3	10
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	3	10
Neo-natal Deaths:									
(Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age)									
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	8
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	8
Early Neo-natal Deaths:									
(Deaths of infants under 1 week of age)									
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	1	6
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	-	-
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	1	6

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	.. .. .	15.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	.. .. .	16.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	.. .. .	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate -		
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births	.. .. .	12.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate -		
Deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births	.. .. .	9.0
Perinatal mortality rate -		
Stillbirth and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births	.. .. .	24.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

Number of deaths	.. .. .	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	.. .. .	Nil

DEATHS

	Male	Female	Totals
	236	192	428
Death Rate per 1,000 population	.. .. .		11.4
Area Comparability Factors (Deaths)	.. .. .		1.02
Rates of local adjusted Death Rate to national rate			0.98

POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid-year 1968 is 37,600 as compared with 37,660 for the previous year, nearly identical with that for the previous year.

BIRTH RATE

There were 662 births making the Birth Rate 17.6 per 1,000 population, again showing a slight fall as compared with that for the previous year, but following the trend of recent years noted at National level.

DEATH RATE

428 people died during the year; the Death Rate being 11.4 per 1,000 population, a little below the national average 11.9.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Ten infants under one year of age died during the year, the Infant Mortality being at the rate of 15 such deaths per 1,000 total live births, and below the national average of 18.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths.

PERINATAL MORTALITY

Still births combined with deaths in the early neo-natal period give the perinatal mortality, valuable for purposes of comparison. The local average ~~30.0~~ compares with 20.3 for the County and 25.0 for the Country as a whole. 24.0

TABLE 2. Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates in the District for the last five years

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	20.2	20.4	19.4	18.3	17.6
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	10.0	10.1	10.3	10.9	11.4
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) (deaths of infants under 1 year)	17.5	19.5	18.2	18.0	15.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) (deaths of infants under 1 month)	12.6	8.9	12.4	13.0	12.0

TABLE 3. For Comparison, the Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for England and Wales etc., are given below

	England and Wales	County of Gloucester	Gloucester Rural District
Live Births	16.9	17.4	17.6
Still Births (per 1,000 total, live and still births)	14.3	11.8	15.0
Infantile Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births (deaths of infants under 1 year)	18.0	14.5	15.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births (deaths of infants under 1 month)	12.3	10.0	12.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths of infants under 1 week)	25.0	20.3	<u>24.0</u> 30.0
Death Rate (per 1,000 population) ..	11.9	10.4	11.4

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICT IN 1968

Table 4 gives the causes of death in the District in accordance with the Abbreviated List (list B) of International Statistical Classifications:-

TABLE 4.

Causes of Death						Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	1	-
2.	Other Tuberculosis, Incl. Late Effects	..	..	..	..	1	-
3.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	..	..	..	..	2	3
4.	Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	..	..	..	..	7	4
5.	Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	..	..	..	..	16	4
6.	Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	..	..	..	..	-	6
7.	Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	..	..	..	..	-	5
8.	Leukaemia	..	..	..	..	3	2
9.	Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc.,	..	..	..	..	21	19
10.	Diabetes Mellitus	..	..	..	..	2	1
11.	Other Endocrine etc., diseases	..	..	..	..	2	-
12.	Anaemias	..	..	..	..	1	-
13.	Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.,	..	..	..	..	1	-
14.	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	2	6
15.	Hypertensive Disease	..	..	..	..	3	5
16.	Ischaemic Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	58	26
17.	Other Forms of Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	11	21
18.	Cerebrovascular Disease	..	..	..	..	34	36
19.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	..	..	..	..	9	7
20.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	1	-
21.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	13	19
22.	Bronchitis and Emphysema	..	..	..	..	19	2
23.	Asthma	..	..	..	..	3	-
24.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	1	-
25.	Peptic Ulcer	..	..	..	..	3	2
26.	Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	1	1
27.	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	..	..	..	..	-	4
28.	Other Diseases of Digestive System	..	..	..	..	2	2
29.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	..	..	..	..	2	-
30.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	..	..	..	..	1	-
31.	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	..	..	..	..	1	2
32.	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	..	..	..	..	-	1
33.	Congenital Anomalies	..	..	..	..	1	2
34.	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.,	..	..	..	..	3	-
35.	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	..	..	..	..	1	-
36.	Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions	..	..	..	..	-	2
37.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	..	..	..	..	2	2
38.	All other Accidents	..	..	..	..	6	6
39.	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	..	..	..	..	1	2
40.	All other External Causes	..	..	..	..	1	-
Total						236	192

Cancer

TABLE 5. Death Rates from Cancer per 1,000 population

	England and Wales		Gloucester Rural District	
	M	F	M	F
Cancer of the Lung ..	1.01	0.197	0.8	0.2
Other Cancer	1.572	1.866	0.4	0.8

Sixteen men and four women died from cancer of the lung, but there was no undue mortality from this cause or other forms of cancer.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

Laboratory Facilities

The examination of pathological specimens, and the bacteriological analyses of water, milk and ice-cream samples, etc., are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at the Gloucester Royal Hospital. (There is no charge for this work).

Chemical analyses of samples of food, water and sewage taken by this department, are examined by the City and County Analyst, Bristol.

Hospitals

Infectious disease cases are admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Over, which is administered by the Gloucester, Stroud and Forest Management Committee.

Child Welfare Clinics

These Clinics are under the general administration of the North Gloucestershire Area Health Sub-Committee of the County Council.

Meetings of Child Welfare Clinics are held at Brockworth, Churchdown, Eastington, Frampton-on-Severn, Innsworth, Norton, Quedgeley, Upton-St.-Leonards, Newnham-on-Severn and Westbury-on-Severn. There is also a Mobile Child Welfare Clinic which serves the Tirley and Maisemore areas.

These clinics are most useful, nearly all mothers with babies attend. The bulk of the work falls upon the ladies of the Voluntary Committees. The community is much indebted to them for their devotion to this service.

Home Help Service

This service is organised by the County Council and is provided where the need for domestic help is supported by the family doctor. Appeals for help should be made to Miss J. Hall, Area Home Help Organiser for Gloucester Rural District Council, telephone number Gloucester 21444.

Part time home helps are at work in the district.

National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951

It was necessary to apply to the Court for an Order for the removal of an old lady to a County Council Home for the Elderly.

The old lady lived alone, was nearly blind and lacked sufficient food and warmth.

She made no demur at the time and became quite happy in the Home.

Meals on Wheels

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service act as the agent of the County Welfare Department for a meals-on-wheels service in the Rural District. The financial deficit on the service is made up by equal contributions from the County Council and District Council. At present the whole of the Rural District is not covered by the service but is expected to be provided wherever there is a need.

A local voluntary organiser is responsible for each scheme. Mrs. P. D. Stone, W.R.V.S. Rose Cottage, Amberley, undertakes the promotion of the service as a whole.

TABLE 6.

Notification of Infectious Diseases in 1968 by Age Groups

	0 +	1 +	3 +	5 +	10 +	25 +	45 +	65 +	Age N.K.	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	3	3	6	-	-	-	-	12
Whooping Cough	1	7	6	8	4	-	-	-	-	26
Measles (excl. G.M.)	16	141	165	155	11	3	2	-	-	493
Ac. Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (non-para.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	3
Tuberculosis (meninges, etc.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (other)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Encephalitis (infective)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Encephalitis (post-inf.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Pneumonia (prim. or flu')	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	7
Para-typhoid fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	5
Malaria (Contr. E. & W.) ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	-	1	-	4	5	2	-	-	-	12
Acute Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anthrax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leptospirosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tetanus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	18	151	174	170	27	8	6	5	-	559

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The following table shows the number of children immunised against diphtheria during 1968.

TABLE 7

Age at 31.12.68 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1968	1 1967	2-4 1966-64	5-14 1963-54	Under 15 Total
Primary Immunisation	181	430	17	30	658
Re-inforcing Injection	-	142	488	505	1135

Nearly every child is immunised against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. To obtain maximum protection three injections are given at four months, six months, and one year of age.

Table of comparison showing the number of children immunised against diphtheria in 1965, 1966, 1967 and 1968 and the number of births in 1968.

TABLE 8.

No of live births 1968	Primary Immunisation				Re-inforcing Injection			
	1965	1966	1967	1968	1965	1966	1967	1968
662	973	865	555	658	2369	1511	1079	1135

Immunisation against Tetanus

The number of children immunised against tetanus approximates to those for diphtheria and whooping cough.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

Freedom from cases of poliomyelitis in the district is due to the success of vaccination against this disease. The efforts of all concerned need to be sustained in order to maintain a high percentage of immunised persons.

Scarlet Fever

Twelve cases of scarlet fever were notified; forty-three less than in the previous year, the disease remains mild in character and low in incidence.

Whooping Cough

Twenty-six cases were notified; even though an increase of fifteen from the previous year, cases of whooping cough are few due to the general acceptance of vaccination against the disease.

Measles

Four hundred and ninety-three cases were notified as compared with 413 in the previous year. There were no deaths. Vaccination against Measles was instituted during the year, the response was excellent and it is expected that epidemics of measles will disappear.

Diphtheria

There has been no case of diphtheria in the District since 1951. This is undoubtedly due to the continued success of the campaign for immunisation against the disease.

Acute Poliomyelitis

No cases occurred in the District.

Infective Jaundice

Infective Jaundice was made a notifiable disease in June, since when twelve cases have been notified.

Dysentery

No case was notified during the year.

Food Poisoning

Annual Return of Incidents and Cases

General Outbreak	- Nil
Family	" - Nil
Sporadic Cases	- Nil

Vaccination against Smallpox

Persons vaccinated in the year ended 31st December, 1968

TABLE 9.

Under 1 year	1 year	2 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	Total
4	122	155	21	302

Vaccination against smallpox is now advocated in the second year. The response is good and compares favourably with elsewhere.

Tuberculosis

TABLE 10. This Table shows the new cases, in-transfers and deaths for Tuberculosis, for the past 21 years.

Year	Pop. of District	New & I. T. Cases	Per 1000 Pop.	Deaths	Per 1000 Pop.	Number on Register	Per 1000 Pop.
1947	31,960	63	1.9	15	0.45	205	6.4
1948	33,540	54	1.6	21	0.62	201	6.0
1949	36,350	65	1.8	16	0.48	205	5.6
1950	35,640	52	1.5	11	0.39	207	5.7
1951	37,360	64	1.7	17	0.45	212	5.7
1952	38,370	70	1.8	6	0.15	243	6.3
1953	37,430	51	1.3	8	0.21	220	5.8
1954	39,140	65	1.6	8	0.20	235	6.0
1955	40,490	75	1.8	3	0.07	274	6.8
1956	41,770	70	1.7	3	0.07	281	6.7
1957	43,000	65	1.5	3	0.07	293	6.8
1958	42,820	50	1.2	3	0.12	293	6.8
1959	43,920	64	1.2	6	0.16	298	6.8
1960	43,350	55	1.2	2	0.05	309	6.6
1961	46,570	51	1.0	4	0.08	280	6.0
1962	48,050	31	0.7	3	0.06	267	5.5
1963	49,870	33	0.7	2	0.04	256	5.1
1964	51,040	35	0.7	1	0.02	256	5.0
1965	52,540	34	0.6	3	0.05	245	4.7
1966	53,610	22	0.4	2	0.04	243	4.6
1967	37,660	17	0.4	4	0.10	227	6.0
1968	37,600	5	0.1	1	0.03	205	5.0

TABLE 11. New, In Transfer cases, Deaths and Number on the Register,
31st December, 1968

	Respiratory		Meninges & C.N.S.		Other Forms		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
New Cases	2	1	—	—	—	1	4
In-Transfer Cases	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Deaths	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
On Register 31.12.68	96	82	—	—	7	20	205

Modern treatment of Tuberculosis is most successful as is shown by the declining death rate from this disease. However five new cases occurred, evidence of sources of infection. Keen investigation is made in each case to find the source of infection, and to trace contacts in order to prevent spread. It is by such means, together with the ready acceptance of B.C.G. vaccination and use of the Mass Radiography service, that Tuberculosis can be eradicated.

Families at Risk

The scheme agreed between the County Council and District Council for the rehabilitation of problem families living in Council houses continued to operate during the year. Where arrears of rent are such as to render the family liable to eviction, the case is referred to the County Social Welfare Officer and if it is accepted the County Council guarantee 75% of the rent arrears.

When family circumstances of this nature become a matter of concern, the Divisional Medical Officer of Health calls a meeting of representatives of the various social agencies so that a common effort may be made to sustain the family.

Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations, 1952-62

Staverton Airport

In connection with the on-call customs facilities granted to Staverton Airport, the Council made arrangements for Health Control at the Airport.

Dr. C. H. Drake, Dr. J. S. Prior, Dr. J. Caldwell and Dr. S. Knight, are appointed to act as authorised officers under Regulation 5 (a) of these Regulations.

Danger to Bathers - River Severn

Regular visits continued to be made by Officers of this Department to places along the River Severn where bathing may take place, in order to ensure that warning notices and life-buoys erected in conjunction with the Parish Councils, were in good repair.

It is pleasing to report that during the year under review there was no wanton damage to equipment as has been the case in previous years.

REPORT OF THE ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

Mr. J. S. Hopkins, C.Eng., A.M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

This year has been marked by significant advances in the sewerage of the district with the release by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of the Tirley Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme, the Hardwicke and Quedgeley Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme and the Relief Works and Extension of the Sewage Works at Frampton-on-Severn. Work has already commenced at Tirley and Frampton and work on Hardwicke and Quedgeley is scheduled to begin early in the new year.

The continued increase in flow at the Longford Sewage Disposal Works has made necessary the design of extension works in order to maintain purification to the River Authority's standards and this scheme has been submitted to the Ministry for approval.

A re-examination of Trades Waste being discharged has commenced and will continue through 1969 in order that control upon the discharge of harmful chemicals may be absolute.

The heavy rain in July, 1968, resulted in the Longford Works becoming flooded and steps are to be taken to raise the flood bank around the Works to prevent a recurrence. The cost of repair work consequent upon flooding was kept to a minimum, largely by the devoted work of the Superintendent, Mr. L. Jarvis, and his staff. The most serious loss, however, was the damage to records of sewers.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Weekly refuse collection services have been maintained despite the ever increasing difficulty of recruitment of labour. A trade refuse service has been commenced with Gloucester Trading Estate.

J. S. HOPKINS

Engineer and Surveyor

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. S. W. D. Harris, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

The following tables are drawn up to show, as concisely as possible, the work of the Department. It will be apparent that this is mainly concerned with food, housing, water supplies, clean air and other matters affecting the environment in which people live and work.

During 1968 exceptional weather conditions gave rise to flooding in various parts of the District. This is a growing problem in the country as a whole and efforts to alleviate flooding must necessarily be co-ordinated with those of adjoining authorities. This complex and difficult problem cannot be solved over-night, but it is pleasing to note that the Council are seeking a solution in their own District with energy and determination.

Difficulties have again arisen from camping on roadside verges and during the year the Caravan Sites Act, 1968 came into operation. This Act will require County Councils to provide sites for gypsies where a need is established.

Following the statutory training period of four years the Pupil Public Health Inspector, Mr. P. J. C. Walker, passed the final stage of his qualifying Examination in October, and subsequently left the Council's employment.

I am indebted to the Council and my colleagues in other Departments, also the Gloucester Public Health Laboratory and the Public Analyst in Bristol, for their support and co-operation during the year.

S. W. D. Harris
Chief Public Health Inspector

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT

TABLE 12.

	Number of Inspections	Notices Served		Defects remedied after notice	
		Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal
Dwelling Houses ..	2122	25	5	25	9
Water Supplies ..	242	7	-	1	-
Food Premises ..	361	31	-	5	-
Slaughterhouses ..	1120	11	-	6	-
Milk and Dairies ..	1	-	-	-	-
Bakehouses ..	2	1	-	-	-
Factories ..	77	1	-	1	-
Drainage and Sewerage	1422	25	-	18	1
Atmospheric Pollution	385	8	-	8	-
Infectious Disease ..	2	-	-	-	-
Pests ..	150	3	-	1	-
Caravans ..	296	8	-	9	-
Noise Abatement ..	294	3	-	-	-
Petroleum ..	317	30	-	5	-
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises ..	83	4	-	-	-
Hairdressers ..	15	-	-	-	-
Health Education ..	59	-	-	-	-
Animal Boarding Estab- lishments ..	19	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous ..	660	1	-	1	-
Total ..	7627	158	5	80	10

The table shows a general increase in the number of inspections required in connection with the Council's public health duties. It will be noted that substantial increases occurred in the figures for noise abatement, atmospheric pollution and housing.

Many of the complaints received arise from areas of housing near industrial or agricultural premises, and close liaison is maintained with the Planning Authority in order to secure the best possible environmental conditions.

WATER SUPPLIES

Public Health Acts, 1936 and 1961

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts, 1944 - 1961

Water Act, 1945

Water Resources Act, 1963

The North West Gloucestershire Water Board supplies water to most of the Council's district but areas of Haresfield, Standish, Whitminster and Moreton Valence are supplied from privately owned local systems.

Remedial measures to overcome discolouration of mains water supplies are being undertaken by the Board, and until these are completed, the Board do their best to ameliorate this condition by flushing the affected mains.

NORTH-WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE WATER BOARD

Mains laid in Gloucester Rural District during 1968

	<u>Size of main</u>	<u>Length (yards)</u>
Arlingham	4"	68
Brockworth	6"	320
	4"	329
	3"	161
Brookthorpe	4"	680
Churchdown	6"	783
	4"	309
	3"	114
Hasfield	4"	855
Longlevens	4"	489
	6"	590
Quedgeley	9"	149
Upton-St.-Leonards	3"	38
Westbury-on-Severn	4"	3778
		<u>8663</u>

Length of mains authorised in Gloucester Rural District
but not laid at 31st December, 1968

Parish	Size of main	Length (yds.)
Abbotswood Estate, Brockworth	3" spun iron	69
	9" " "	163
West Green, Elmore	3" p.v.c.	531
Pirton Court Estate, Churchdown	6" spun iron	232
Alkerton House, Eastington	4" " "	726
		1721

Houses provided with mains water supply at 31st December, 1968

Arlingham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	125
Ashleworth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	115
Brockworth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1975
Brookthorpe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	117
Chaceley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Churchdown	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3154
Down Hatherley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114
Eastington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	429
Elmore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84
Forthampton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60
Frampton-on-Severn	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	428
Fretherne-with-Saul	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	255
Frocester	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Hardwicke	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	280
Harescombe	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Haresfield	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Hasfield	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Highnam	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	156
Hucclecote (part)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	236
Longford (part)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	451
Longlevens & Innsworth (part)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2870
Longney	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	93
Maisemore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	138
Minsterworth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	160
Moreton Valence	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	79
Norton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	91
Newnham-on-Severn	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	406
Quedgeley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	418
Sandhurst	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	147
Standish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Tirley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87
Twigworth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	67
Upton-St.-Leonards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	585
Westbury-on-Severn	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	372
Whitminster	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	158

RURAL SANITATION

Cleansing of Cesspools

During the year 1,404 cesspools were emptied under the Council's scheme. For various reasons the satisfactory disposal of cesspool contents is becoming increasingly difficult and I feel that the Council will have to consider the provision of disposal arrangements in the near future.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Clean Air Act, 1956

A considerable increase in the number of visits required to administer this Act is shown in Table 12. These involved factory installations, schools, offices, and domestic premises. In many cases application for "prior approval" is made to the Council before the installation of new plant is commenced. Applications are carefully scrutinised by the Council's officers and in appropriate cases the Council are recommended to issue Certificates of Approval.

CARAVAN SITES

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Persons who have been granted planning consent for the use of a caravan for residential purposes are required to obtain a Site Licence from the District Council. On receiving an application, the District Council are obliged to grant a Site Licence and in doing so may lay down the conditions with which the applicant must conform, these include the provision of suitable water supply, sanitation, fire precautions and site layout.

Mention must be made of the Caravan Sites Act, 1968 which has two important main provisions. These concern security of tenure and protection from harassment for tenants on caravan sites, and the provision by local authorities of sites for gypsies.

It is not yet known when the part of the Act concerning sites for gypsies will become operative, but the remainder of the Act came into force on the 26th August.

NOISE ABATEMENT

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

During the year 294 visits were made by Public Health Inspectors to administer the provisions of this Act.

Most of the complaints received related to industrial or commercial activities being carried out in close proximity to residential property.

New permitted maximum noise limits based upon the recommendations made in the 1963 Report of the Wilson Committee on the Problem of Noise, came into operation on the 1st July. The permitted noise limits for motor-cycles are up to 90 dBA depending upon their size, 92 dBA for heavy vehicles, 87 dBA for passenger cars, and 88 dBA for light goods vehicles.

The facing table, reprinted from the DAWE Digest, published by DAWE Instruments Limited, gives an indication of comparative noise from various sources. While the table is extremely useful as a guide, it must be realised that only rarely do the complex conditions found in practice allow straightforward comparisons to be made.

Noise	Decibels (dBA)	Sound Pressure Dyne/Cm ²	Typical Examples
Painful	120	200	
Deafening	110		Jet aircraft at 500 ft. Inside boiler making factory, Near pneumatic drill Motor horn at 20 ft.
	100	20	
Very loud	90		Inside tube train Busy street Workshop Small car at 24 ft.
	80	2	
Loud	70		Noisy office Inside small car Large shop Radio set - full volume
	60	0.2	
Moderate	50		Normal conversation at 3 ft. Urban house Quiet office Rural house
	40	0.02	
Faint	30		Public library Quiet conversation Rustle of paper Whisper
	20	0.002	
Very faint	10		Quiet church Still night in the country Sound-proof room Threshold of hearing
	1	0.0002	

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Nationally, "Warfarin" resistance amongst rats and mice continues to present something of a problem in rodent control. However, there has been no evidence of "Warfarin" resistance in this district, and for the time being at any rate, it is intended to continue using this very reliable preparation.

TABLE 13.

	Inspections	Treatment
Private dwellings (including Council properties)	1705	299
Farms	345	70
Business Premises	134	29
Sewers	356	5
Schools	67	16
Hospitals	—	—
Sewage Works and Depots	143	17
Other open spaces	—	—
Total	2750	436

TABLE 14.

Sewers	Action Taken	Result
Brockworth	Test Baited	Satisfactory
Churchdown	" "	No Treatment Required
Frampton-on-Severn	" "	" " "
Fretherne-with-Saul	" "	" " "
Hucclecote	" "	" " "
Innsworth	" "	" " "
Maisemore	" "	" " "
Newnham-on-Severn	Treatment	Satisfactory
Upton-St.-Leonards	Test Baited	No Treatment Required
Westbury-on-Severn	Treatment	Satisfactory

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924-52

Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958

Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958

Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963

TABLE 15.

Type of Business	Total Number	No. of Inspections	Number fitted to comply with Reg.16	Regulation 19		Remarks
				No. to which Reg.19 applies	Number fitted to comply	
Cafes and Canteens	72	43	72	72	72	This includes school canteens.
Grocery & Provision Shops	93	146	85	79	73	This includes sweet shops and chemists.
Ice Cream Vendors	78	43	78	---	---	Registered under S.16 Food & Drugs Act 1955 Most Ice Cream sold in the district is pre-packed.
Butchers shops	12	22	12	12	12	Six shops registered under S.16 Food & Drugs Act 1955. Sausage making.
Fishmongers	4	7	3	3	3	This includes fried and wet fish.
Bakehouses	2	2	2	2	2	These are small and only supply a small proportion of the population.
Licensed Premises	49	38	49	49	49	The Breweries are very co-operative in carrying out improvements recommended.
Dairies	4	1	4	---	---	
Wholesale Premises (Food Manufacture)	3	2	3	3	3	Inspected under Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960
Total	317	304	308	299	285	

Food Hygiene

The proliferation of sales of perishable foods from vending machines has merited increased attention to the new problems associated with this method of food distribution.

Difficulties have been experienced in relation to machines which are installed in factories in various parts of the district, and these have arisen largely because of the varied nature of commodities on sale from the same machine.

Advice has been given to proprietors of these installations and their attention has been drawn particularly to the necessity for maintaining strict control of stock rotation and hygiene.

Ice Cream

During 1968, nine licences were issued under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the sale of ice cream.

Anthrax Order, 1938

No cases of anthrax were confirmed during the year.

Slaughterhouses

The following slaughterhouses were licensed in 1968.

1. Churchdown, Chapel Hay
2. Eastington, Alkerton Place
3. Minsterworth, The Flatt
4. Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon, Brickhouse Farm

New Regulations prohibiting the time-honoured, but hygienically undesirable, practice of wiping down meat carcasses with wiping cloths, came into force in November. Carcasses henceforth will be finished using high pressure cold water sprays, and although there has been resistance initially from some sections of the trade, there is no doubt that the many advantages of the new method will quickly make it acceptable to all concerned.

This is a further step in the policy of successive governments to improve the hygienic standard of meat production. Difficulties have been experienced in securing compliance with the Slaughterhouse Regulations and this is all the more remarkable when one considers that non-compliance with the Regulations is punishable by a fine of up to £100 and/or 3 months imprisonment for each contravention.

TABLE 16. Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed (if known)	1366	59	145	7053	3242	11865
Number inspected	1366	59	145	7053	3242	11865
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis and</u> <u>Cysticercosis</u> Whole carcasses condemned	----	1	2	3	1	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	176	55	4	587	460	1282
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	12.88%	94.92%	4.14%	8.37%	14.22%	10.86%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u> Whole carcasses condemned	----	----	----	----	----	----
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	----	----	----	----	15	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	----	----	----	----	0.46%	0.13%
<u>Cysticercosis:</u> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	----	----	----	----	10
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	10	----	----	----	----	10
Generalised and totally condemned	----	----	----	----	----	----

Total weight of meat or organs condemned for:-

(i)	All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis	6196 lb.
(ii)	Tuberculosis	150 lb.
(iii)	Cysticercosis	245 lb.
	Total	6591 lb.

(or 2 tons 18 cwt. 95 lb.)

Cysticercus Bovis

Regional Infestation

							Number infested
External masseter muscles	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Internal masseter muscles	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Heart musculature	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other sites	..	..	..	..	..	..	-

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Condemnation of Foodstuffs

TABLE 17.

Article	Non-Preserved lb.	Preserved, tinned, etc. lb.
Meat	6599	107
Flour and Cereals ..	29	-
Vegetables	125	238
Fish	103	130
Cheese & Fats	-	-
Fruit	27	112
Cream & Evaporated Milk	3	3
Other	1	124
Total	6887 lbs	714 lbs

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Health Education

Lecturing to local organisations has continued to be the principal activity in the field of health education, and full use has been made of visual aids. Sound films, particularly if in colour, are usually popular with audiences, but it is felt that there is a need for new films dealing with several aspects of environmental health. This is not because the "message" contained in existing films is not dealt with satisfactorily, but because backgrounds to the films are dated and much of the value of the films is lost for this reason.

Close co-operation has been maintained with the Health Education Section of the County Health Department, and one result has been the interchange of technical equipment. This has been to the benefit of both departments.

People are becoming more critical of the environment in which they live and they are demanding higher standards. This is the result not only of active health education programmes, but of what is seen on television and what is read in newspapers and magazines. Unfortunately, the legislation necessary to achieve higher environmental standards is not always adequate.

The scope of the health education service has been broadened and lectures have been given at schools and technical colleges.

The need for training food handlers in the basic principles of food hygiene, is still apparent and whilst it is relatively easy to arrange lectures for canteen staffs in the large industrial premises, it is by no means easy to bring together shop assistants from a rural area. Advice on methods of improving hygiene is therefore given when public health inspectors carry out routine visits to the premises and, in practice, this works very well.

The question of providing exhibition material at local agricultural and horticultural shows is under consideration and should this prove to be practicable, this activity will be incorporated in the health education programme in the near future.

NEW HOUSING, 1968

TABLE 18.

Number of dwellings erected during the year:

By the Council

Upton-St.-Leonards (Ash Path)	45
-------------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

By Private Enterprise	210
-----------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

Total	255
-------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

Number of dwellings under construction at 31st December, 1968:

By the Council:

Upton-St.-Leonards (Ash Path)	8
-------------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	---

Longford (Victoria Road)	29
--------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

By Private Enterprise	150
-----------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

Total	187
-------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

Number of Council Houses sold to tenants in 1968:

NIL

Number of dwellings owned by the Council at 31st December, 1968:

2,223

Number of applicants on Council's Housing List:

At 31st December, 1967	494
------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

At 31st December, 1968	353
------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

Housing Progress:

Number of dwellings erected from 1st April 1945 to 31st December, 1968:

By the Council and local housing society	2339
--	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	------

By Private Enterprise	6414
-----------------------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	------

HOUSING ACT, 1957

Housing in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses Elsewhere

TABLE 19.

Houses Demolished During the Year:

Number of houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Persons displaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Families displaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

Unfit Houses Closed During the Year:

Number of houses closed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Persons displaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Families displaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Unfit houses made fit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34

The figures above show the results of action taken under the provisions of the Housing Acts. In many cases housing defects are more appropriately dealt with by Public Health Act procedures, and details of these are to be found in Table 12.

Housing Survey

A pilot housing survey of the district was carried out in accordance with the methods recommended in the Denington Committee Report on Housing issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The sampling frame from which each sample was selected was the Local Valuation List and in order to obtain the recommended total of 1,000 houses, a sampling interval of 11 was adopted.

Experience has shown that the statistical error in this method should not exceed 10%. The results of this pilot survey are tabulated overleaf.

The survey of the Eastington area has shown the changing pattern of need in municipal housing and indicates that greater provision will have to be made for elderly persons in future programmes.

HOUSING SURVEY

TABLE 20.

Tolerance	Estimate of the total number of unfit houses in district		Estimate of the total number of unfit houses repairable at reasonable expense		Estimate of the total number of unfit houses not repairable at reasonable expense	
	Number	*approx. % total stock	Number	approx. % total stock	Number	approx. % total stock
SURVEY	1,163	10.5	770	6.9	393	3.5
- 10%	1,047	9.4	693	6.2	354	3.2
+ 10%	1,279	11.5	847	7.6	432	3.9

* These figures compare with a National average of 5.5% unfit dwellings expressed as a percentage of total dwellings.

Figures for individual Parishes have not been quoted as the sampling frame is not large enough to make accurate estimates at Parish level.

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937 to 1961

PART 1

TABLE 21. A. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health

Premises	No. of Premises in Register	No. of In- spections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prose- Cuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	7	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	80	77	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers)	49	-	-	-
Total	136	77	-	-

TABLE 22. B. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases where defects were found				No. of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Reme- died	Referred		
			to H.M.I.	by H.M.I.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Vent. (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937 to 1961

PART VIII

OUTWORK

No Outworkers were listed in the District during 1968.

Factories Act inspections are combined where possible with visits under the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, the Clean Air Act, 1956, and the Petroleum Regulations etc.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

TABLE 24.

							Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Retail Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
Wholesale shops, warehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	--
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Fuel storage depots	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	83

The working conditions of industrial workers have been controlled by the Factories Acts for many years. This control did not apply to persons working in offices, shops, and similar premises, who comprised a substantial part of the nation's working population, until the advent of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963. In addition to the control of cleanliness, temperature, lighting, ventilation, and washing arrangements, the Act lays upon local authorities responsibilities for investigating and dealing with accidents arising on these premises.

Advice was given during routine inspections of premises on the lighting of work areas. It had been hoped that by this time guidance as to lighting standards would have been given in the form of Regulations, but the Minister has been so far unable to arrive at a universally acceptable standard. In the meantime advice continues to be based on the Code evolved by the Illuminating Engineering Society of Great Britain.

PETROLEUM ADMINISTRATION

During 1968, two applications were received for the Council to vary licensing conditions to permit the sale of petrol from "self-service" pumps. Following consultation with the County Fire Service and the County Planning Department, an amended set of licensing conditions appropriate to this type of sale, was drawn up and approved by the Council. Up to the end of the year neither applicant had proceeded with the installation.

Towards the end of 1968 the Home Office published a revised Model Code of Licensing Conditions. These vary to some extent from the Conditions which the Council now attach to petroleum licences, and consideration will have to be given to bringing the Council's Conditions into line with the Model Code.

A serious leakage of petroleum spirit occurred at one Petrol Filling Station resulting in a considerable quantity of petrol discharging to a surface water sewer. The leakage was traced to a supply pipe line which was rusted through. The supply was shut down until the pipe line could be replaced. During the period of this emergency the Police and Fire Service stood by, and the Fire Service thoroughly flushed out the sewer prior to the defective pipe line being isolated and also after it had been renewed. I would like to pay tribute to both the Police and Fire Service for their willing co-operation over this matter.

The number of premises in the District licensed to store petroleum spirit during 1968 was 95 and this represented a total storage capacity in excess of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons.

S. W. D. Harris

Chief Public Health Inspector

